

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09305 01 OF 02 311207Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

SP-02 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01

ABF-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 EB-07 HEW-04 AID-05 /093 W

-----311431Z 003603 /44

R 310913Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 473

INFO USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 9305

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA): COMMITTEE
ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

1. SUMMARY. THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (CAF) COMPLETED ITS WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY APPROVING BY CONSENSUS THE RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN BOARD DOCUMENTS (SEE POSITION PAPERS RE CAF). THE RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (E/ICEF/AB/L.179) WAS AMENDED TO STRESS THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE SPECIAL IYC SECRETARIAT AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE IYC SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. OTHER LANGUAGE CHANGES IN RESOLUTIONS INCLUDED: A) REQUIRING PRIOR BOARD AUTHORITY BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSFERS IN EXCESS OF 5 PERCENT BETWEEN BUDGETARY CATEGORIES (DOC. E/ICEF/AB/L.172 RES. -); B) PERMITTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SPEND MORE (15 PERCENT) FUNDS THEN ESTIMATED ON THE GREETING CARD OPERATION TO MEET EXPANDED PRODUCTION AND SALES COSTS ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY URGENT AND NECESSARY (E/ICEF/AB/L.175); AND C) OTHER ESSENTIALLY EDITORIAL IMPROVEMENTS. SWEDEN PURSUED ITS PROPOSAL

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PAGE 02 MANILA 09305 01 OF 02 311207Z

OF 3-YEAR COUNTRY PROGRAMS TO BE TIED TO 3-YEAR FINANCIAL TARGETS, MULTI-YEAR PLEDGES AND CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. US WAS ACTIVE, FREQUENTLY INTERVENING ALONG THE LINES OF THE POSITION PAPERS, AND ALSO IN SEEKING TO ASSIST VERY ABLE CAF CHAIRMAN (OGATA, JAPAN) IN MOVING DEBATE PAST BOTTLENECKS. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF JAPANESE UN PERMANENT MISSION OGATA, CAF CONCLUDED ITS BUSINESS SATURDAY, MAY 28, HAVING DEALT WITH AN EXTENSIVE AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED: A) 1977-79 FINANCIAL PALN; B) STRENGTHENING UNICEF MANAGEMENT; C) ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT BUDGETS FOR 1977 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1978; D) GREETING CARD OPERATIONS FINANCIAL REPORT, 1977 BUDGET ESTIMATES; E) COPENHAGEN PACKING AND ASSEMBLY CENTRE OPERATIONS; F) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD.

3. THE 1977-79 FINANCIAL PALAN (E/ICEF/AB/L.178) DISCUSSION ADDRESSED QUESTIONS OF REASONS FOR UNCOMMITTED FUNDS; EFFORT BY SWEDEN TO HAVE UNICEF ENGAGE IN A THREE-YEAR FORWARD PLANNING/THREE-YEAR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT EXERCISE; UTILITY OF HAVING THE ACABQ REVIEW UNICEF BUDGETS AS WELL AS THE CAF, AND DEGREE TO WHICH NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES AND CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS EFFECT UNICEF RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS. REGADING UNCOMMITTED SUMS SECRETARIAT ANOTED 1976 WAS VERY UNUSUAL YEAR, (SEE DOCUMENT), BUT INTENDS TO WATCH CAREFULLY FUNDS-IN-HAND SITUATION AND REVIEW GUIDELINES OF COMMITMENTS TO EXPEDITURES TO BRING RATIO IN LINE WITH BOARD APPROVED FORMULA, AND POSSIBLY REVIEWING IT FOR NEXT SESSION. CASH-IN-HAND SHOULD BE 50 PPERCENT OF EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES FOR FOLLOWING YEAR.) SWEDEN'S PROPOSAL WAS MET WITH MIXED RESPONSE WITH SEVERAL DELS ALLUDING TO THE DANGERS OF CREATING A PARALLEL TO UNDP/IPF'S AND DRIFT TOWARD QUASI-ASSESSED, RATHER THAN VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH WOULD RAISE QUESTION OF UNIQUE NATURE OF UNICEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 09305 01 OF 02 311207Z

AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ELEMENTS IN UN SYSTEM. REGARDING ACABQ IT WAS NOTED THA IN 1969 QUESTION WAS CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDATION TO ECOSOC WAS THAT UNICEF BUDGETARY COMMITTEE REMAIN THE SOLE REVIEW BODY, WITH SPECIAL QUESTIONS REFERRED TO ACABQ FOR ADVISORY OPINION. (THIS WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED.) QUESTION OF NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES WAS INITIALLY BROACHED BY PHILIPPINES WHO REQUESTED SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS OF WHAT WERE READILY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES; WHILE NOT CONSIDERED MAJOR PROBLEM SECRETAIRAT WILL EXAMINE SITUATION. REGARDING QUESTION POSED BY PAKISTAN CONCERNING INFLATION AND MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS BY UNICEF CONTROLLER BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRY BANKS, SECRETARIAT INDICATED SUCH DEPOSITS WERE USUALLY ON A SHORT-TERM

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09305 02 OF 02 311215Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 474

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 9305

BASIS AND TRANSFERRED TO MAKE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF UNICEF RESOURCES (FYI UNICEF POLICY IS TO KEEP ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS IN US BANKS; 50 PERCENT ELSEWHERE PRIMARILY IN EUROPE AND JAPAN. COMMITTED FUNDS, AS APPROPRIATE, WERE KEPT IN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY WOULD BE UTILIZED. END FYI)

4. STRENGTHENING UNICEF MANAGEMENT DEBATE (E/ICEF/AB/L.177) INCLUDED EMPHASIS BY SEVERAL G-77 MEMBERS (MOROCCO, INDIA, PAKISTAN) ON ADEQUACY OF MEASURES TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON INTERNATIONAL STAFF ON ADDITION TO LOCAL HIRE OFFICERS. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (US,US, NETHERLANDS) AND PHILIPPINES STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS TO INCREASE RECRUTIMENT OF WOMEN. QUESTION OF HIRING MORE CONSULTANTS AND PROCURING GOODS (COPENHAGEN PACKING AND ASSEMBLY CENTRE ACTIVITIES E/ICEF/AB/L.175) FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS THEME OF SAME GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND IS LIKELY TO REAPPEAR IN FUTURE BOARD SESSIONS.

5. 1978 BUDGET ESTIMATE (E/ICEF/AB/L.173) WAS APPROVED AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION N SPECIFIC ELEMENTS. DECISION WAS TAKEN TO CONTINUE DOCUMENT IN ITS PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MANILA 09305 02 OF 02 311215Z

LENGTH AND FORM AS USEFUL FORMAT FROM SEVERAL VANTAGE POINTS. (FYI RE OFFICE SPACE, UNICEF WILL SOON BE SIGNING FIVE-YEAR LEASE, WITH SUBSTANTIAL RENT CONCESSION AT ITS PRESENT LOCATION. IT WILL NOT PURSUE QUESTION OF BUILDING PURCHASE.

END FYI)

6. THE GREETING CARD OPERATION CAME IN FOR CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM BECAUSE OF THE REDUCTION IN PROCEEDS AND OVER PRODUCTION, RESULTING IN A TIGHTENING OF RES. A (E/ICEF/AB/L.175) SO THAT PROGRAM IS ON NOTICE THAT ANY EXTRA EXPENDITURES FOR INCREASE PRODUCTION OF CARDS SHOULD OCCUR ONLY IF URGENTLY REQUIRED AND WILL BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED.

7. REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, STAFFING BUDGETS, FUNDING (E/ICEF/AB/L.179), SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING CANADA (\$100,000), FRG (\$50,000) AND JAPAN (GOVERNMENT STUDYING AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION) INDICATED INTENTION TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF IYC SECRETARIAT. SOME DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT UNICEF FOOTING UP TO \$3.0 MILLION THE COSTS OF THE IYC UNTIL PLEDGES EQUAL EXPECTED COSTS AND FUNDS ARE ACTUALLY RECEIVED. (CURRENT REVISED ESTIMATES OF IYC SECRETARIAT 1977-1980 EQUAL \$4.7 MILLION ; PLEDGES ANNOUNCED AMOUNT FOR \$1.4 MILLION.) CANADIANS ALSO PROPOSED IDEA OF SECONDMENT OF PROFESSIONALS FROM GOVERNMENTS TO SECRETARIAT (WITH GOVERNMENT PAYING SALARIES). THIS WAS SUPPORTED BY DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELS.

8. WHEN FRG (YORK) EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT IYC AND NEED FOR FUNDS, PHILIPPINES (VERCELES) STRONGLY RESPONDED WITH STATEMENT WHICH NOTED THAT WHEN CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT A PARTICULAR THEME--SUCH AS POPULATION OR THE ENVIRONMENT--THE AMOUNTS NEEDED WERE AVAILABLE, AND THE \$4.7 MILLION NEEDED TO MAKE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 09305 02 OF 02 311215Z

IYC OPERATIONAL WAS A PITTANCE BY COMPARISON. FRG DID MANAGE TO AMEND IYC RESOLUTION (E/ICEF/AB/L.179) TO READ "(III) APPOINT, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO HIM (UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR), AS HEAD OF THE TEMPORARY SPECIAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MANILA
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977053/aaaaacal.tel
Line Count: 216
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2413762
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA): COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
TAGS: PORG, RP, UNICEF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1cb428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009